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THE MEDICAL PROFESSION AND THE ISSUES WHICH CONFRONT IT.¹

THE American Medical Association begins its fifth-seventh annual session under the most auspicious circumstances. After an interval of forty-one years it again meets in Boston, the guest of this great commonwealth which has ably upheld the highest medical traditions since the founding of New England.

Another cause of felicitation—the sectional differences in New York have been overcome and the Empire State for the first time in twenty-five years presents a unified delegation.

The house of delegates of the American Medical Association (which technically is the American Medical Association) represents directly about 55,000 and indirectly the 120,000 regular practitioners of medicine in the United States. The official organ, the *Journal*, reaches each week over 43,000 subscribers, and under the able editorship of Dr. George H. Simmons, has become the leading professional magazine in the world.

The medical profession is to be congratulated upon these evidences of a useful organization, but much remains to be done. In his individual capacity the medical man has not been found wanting. Go where you will in civilized lands, you will find the doctor, self-sacrificing, patient and charitable, upholding the honor and dignity of his noble calling. Collectively, medical men do not have the influence

¹Address of the president of the American Medical Association, Boston, June 5, 1906.